

**Announcement of the 2016 Virginia Teacher of the Year  
Executive Mansion, Richmond  
October 19, 2015**

Governor Terry McAuliffe: Natalie DiFusco-Funk is our winner!

(Applause)

DiFusco-Funk: You said my name right!

McAuliffe: Did I? (Laughs)

(Applause)

DiFusco-Funk: Oh, my students are going to be so excited! I practiced my speech with them last week, and I told them ... I said, you know, I've given it my best; I've worked really hard, and sometimes your best is good enough and sometimes it's not. And no matter what, it has been an amazing learning experience. I feel as though I am an ambassador for the education community. I work with wonderful teachers; I would not be a great teacher if I didn't work with such wonderful teachers. And it's a responsibility to represent the field of education and to raise awareness about educational issues and, hopefully, bring about some change.

To the White House!

(Applause)